

MEMBERS PRESENT

(attending by Webinar)

Dr. Seth Harkins
Legislative Designee

Dr. Robert Bloom
Gubernatorial Appointee

Mr. Merlin Lehman
Gubernatorial Appointee

Mr. Matt George
Legislative Designee

Mr. Nathan Roth
DHS/DFCS

Ms. Kathy Ward
DHS/DDD
Joy Decker DHS/DDD

Ms. Carie Johnstone
Legislative Designee

Ms. Sherry Bochenek
ISBE
Barbara Moore
ISBE

Mr. Mark Smith
DJJ

Mr. Neal Takiff
Gubernatorial Appointee

Dr. Andrew Beaty
Gubernatorial Appointee

Dr. Constance Y. Williams
DHS/DMH

Dr. Kathy Briseno
Legislative Designee

Ms. Michelle Scott-Terven
DHS/DRS
Rahnee Patrick DHS/DRS

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Kristine Herman
HFS

Dr. Cesar Madrigal
Gubernatorial Appointee

Ms. Judith Levitan
OAG

Ms. Alicia Ozier
DCFS

Ms. Julie Stremlau
DHS/DFCS

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Nancy Aguirre
Regional Coordinator

Ms. Kristin Gharst
Regional Coordinator

Ms. Juli Kartel
Regional Coordinator

Ms. Lynn Lowder Coffey
Operations Manager

Ms. Leah Guffey
Office Manager

Ms. Debbi Smith
Executive Director

Mr. Robert Watts
Regional Coordinator

LIAISONS PRESENT

None

GUESTS

Uli Senz
Genesee Lake Schools

Michelle Churchey-Mims
CHBA

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 am by Chairperson Mr. Matt George.

II. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2021 AUTHORITY MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the October 14, 2021 meeting with no revisions.

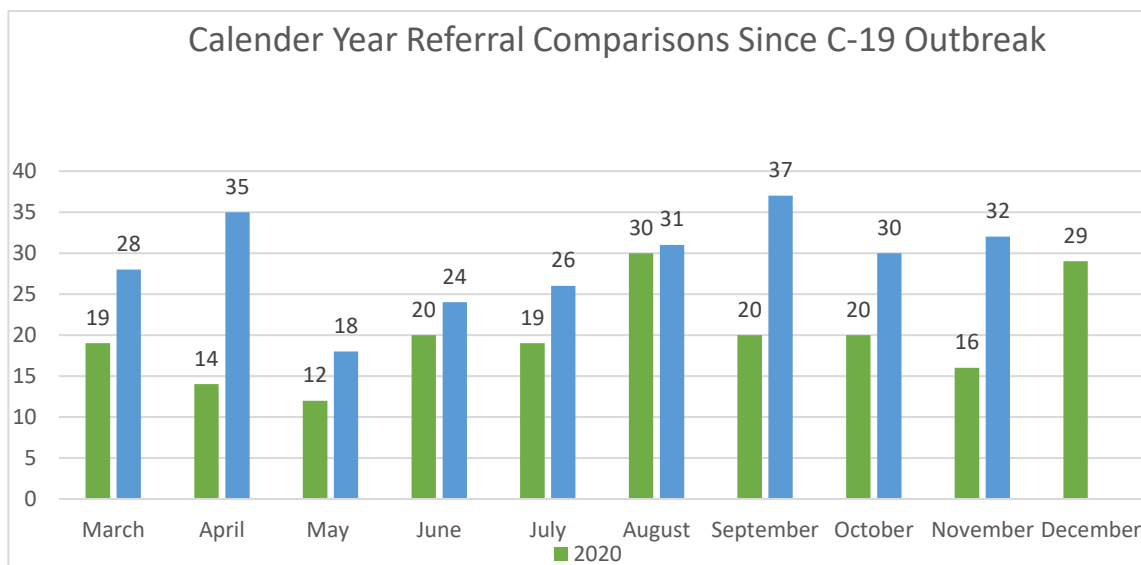
MOTION: *Dr. Constance Williams moved and Dr. Robert Bloom seconded that the minutes of the October 14, 2021 Authority meeting be approved. The motion carried unanimously.*

CRSA Board Chairman Legislative Designee Matt George announced some housekeeping comments for the meeting: Due to the full agenda, the Office Manager Report was folded into the Operations Manager Report, in addition there would be no Regional Coordinator report due to time constraints. Mr. George also announced that Ms. Abbey Storey with ISBE will no longer be the ISBE representative however we gladly welcome her alternate Sherry Bochenek who will participate until a new ISBE Special Education Supervisor replaces her on our board. He added that the board will be hearing a Dispute Resolution case. Again as a matter of time constraints, Chairman George asked Agencies to submit their traditional reports in writing to be incorporated into the minutes.

III. DIRECTORS REPORT:

The October board meeting, the board asked for the top 10 legislation that CRSA tracks. This information was sent out with the minutes for the December meeting to be reviewed at the Executive meeting and full board meeting.

CRSA tracks ongoing referrals and measures those referral numbers to the covid impact on cases. This chart was sent out with the December packet and reviewed by the board. It shows that CRSA's caseload continues to grow compared to calendar year 2020.



Director Smith reiterated her retirement is at the end of June. A job description of Executive Director and by laws was given to executive committee. Further agenda items will attend to the selection and hiring of a new Director.

CRSA requested expenditures for FY 2019, FY 2020 and FY 2021 for hospitalizations of youth 0-22 but have not received them yet from HFS. This is to further discussion about the youth whose stays are beyond medical necessity at hospitals, and an assessment of resources allocated to lengthy hospitalizations to compare to alternatives.

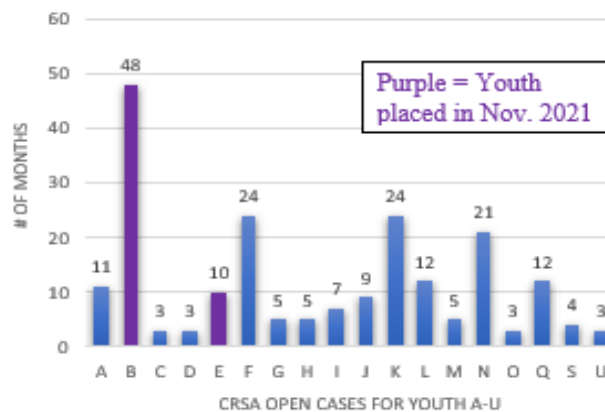
At the October board meeting, a request to see the list of barriers CRSA tracks, the list was sent out with December Board packets. At the end of FY 2021, CRSA staff surveyed the board members to elicit their preference on barriers to track. This was incorporated into the Client Entry Data And Retrieval (CEDAR) database for FY 22. The board was invited to again submit the barriers they wished to track.

On December 8, 2021, Board member Neal Takiff and Director Smith testified at the joint committee meeting of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding the lack of residential treatment facilities available to high-risk youth with emotional health disabilities. The discussion reiterated that the state is facing a severe deficit in available timely access to prescribe residential treatment for youth with severe emotional disabilities. Mr. Takiff explained how single case agreements would help agencies and schools pursue placements that are not on state agency proprietary preferred provider lists.

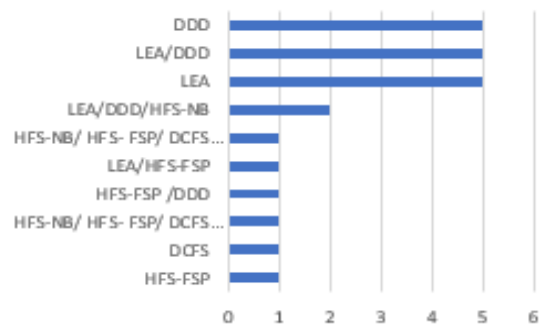
NO TIMELY ACCESS TO RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT DATA ON OPEN CRSA CASES AS OF 11/15/21

Publicly Funded Youth Awaiting Treatment	Location	Current Placement (K Pending)	RTC Discharged	Awaiting 1st RTC Admission	Awaiting Next RTC Admission	Funding Source(s)	# Months Awaiting Placement	Date Placed
A	Home			X		RSP / DDD	11	
B	Home			X		DDD	48	Nov-21
C	DS		Golden Robing		X	DDD	3	
D	Home		Wage Daughter		X	LEA	3	Nov-21
E	Home			X		DDD/LEA	10	
F	Home		Revolute		X	HFS-NB/ HFS- FSP/ DCFS Waiver	24	
G	Home		Hope		X	LEA/DDD/HFS-NB	5	
H	Home		NBA		X	LEA/DDD/HFS-NB	5	
I	Home		Great Circle		X	LEA/DO	7	
J	Home			X		DDD	9	
K	Home		Neuro Restoration		X	HFS-NB/ HFS- FSP/ DCFS Waiver/LEA	24	
L	CLIA	CLIA				DDD	12	
M	Home		Qumt		X	HFS-FSP	5	
N	Home		US School for Deaf		X	DDD/LEA	21	
O	RTC	Chadwick Ch Home			X	LEA	3	
P	RTC	Haddon			X	DDD	2	
Q	Shelter Care	Aunt Martha's Shelter Care			X	DDD/LEA	12	
R	Home			X	X	LEA	2	
S	Home		NBA		X	LEA/DO	4	
T	Shelter Care			X		DCFS	2	
U	Home		Milwaukee		X	LEA/HFS-FSP	3	
V	GLS	Proctor Villa Home				LEA	1	
W	RTC	Chadwick Ch Home				LEA	1	

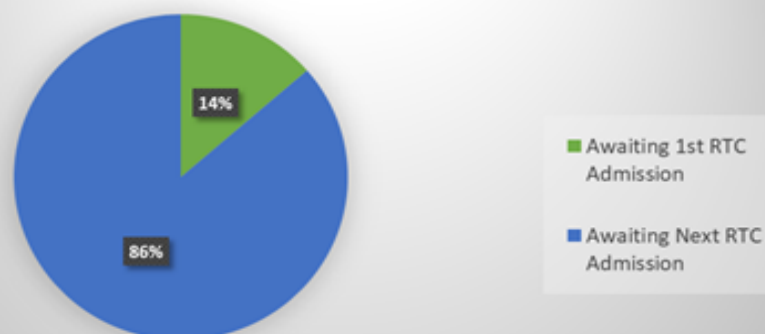
Months Awaiting/Awaited Placement



OF YOUTH'S WITH PUBLIC FUNDING SOURCE(S) AWAITING TREATMENT



Youth Awaiting Residential Treatment



The CRSA annual report for FY 20 was submitted and will require a vote at the February board meeting.

Director Smith briefed the board that there is new legislation SB 2294 amending the CRSA statute which is included in the board packet which is to be covered by the CRSA Legislative Liaison later in the minutes.

IV. OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT

This legislative session will run January 4 to April 8 this year due to the special election in June.

SB 2943 Update (Single Case Agreement Update): Senator Villa filled the amendment on October 19 and it SB 2943. It was referred to Assignments. Senator Villa told CRSA that Representative LaPointe would sponsor the bill in the House. Director Smith, Gubernatorial Appointee Neal Takiff J.D, and Legislative Liaison Lynn Lowder met with Representative LaPointe on December 7, 2021. She suggested the legislation not limit intake to 5 youth, all agreed. Ms. Lowder contacted Senator Villa to relay the change and seek support for this change. Representative Mussman, who sits on the CRSA board, has also offered to co-sponsor the bill in the House.

Ms. Lowder arranged testimony from Director Smith and Neal Takiff J.D at the Joint Hearing of the House Mental Health and Addiction Committee and the Senator Behavioral and Mental Health Committee held on December 8th as described in the Director's report.

SB 2294: Senator Sara Feigenholtz legislation involving CRSA passed and is now ***Public Act 102-0043***. This public act establishes a pilot program where CRSA will act as a residential research hub.

Ms. Lowder discussed the preparations that has been made to prepare for her departure.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **CRSA Board Vacancy:** Chairman George reported CRSA has a Gubernatorial position open on the board. Two people reached to Ms. Lowder since our last meeting. She assisted them with getting the link to apply to the Governor's office online. She follows up regularly.
- B. **CRSA Alternates for OAG and DCFS:** Chairman George reiterated the importance of having alternates to the Authority. We still need OAG and DCFS to appointee alternates for their Designees.

- C. **Vote on SOF Proposed Legislation:** Chairman George reminded the board that at the October they received SOF proposed language. Chairman George Called for a vote.

MOTION: *Dr. Seth Harkins moved and Neal Takiff seconded that the Authority move forward with the SOF Legislation. The motion carried unanimously.*

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Recognition of Lynn Lowder Operations Manager/Legislative Liaison;** Ms. Lowder served the CRSA for 35 years. She was given a certificate of appreciation, a plaque and then a speech was read in her honor. A plaque will hang in the CRSA main office honoring her accomplishments. Her contributions to CRSA are numerous. She will be greatly missed as a full-time employee. CRSA is grateful that she agreed to remain on contract as needed.
- B. **Gary Seelbach Award Nominees:** Chairman George announced that they will be accepting nominations from the board and CRSA staff for the Gary Seelbach award for board members who best exemplify service excellence and positive regard for youth, families, and colleagues. Nominees will need to be into CRSA main office before the February board meeting. The winner will be announced at the February meeting, Director Smith will send out a reminder for the nominations.
- C. **Executive Director Evaluation Committee:** Chairman George asked for volunteers to participate on the Evaluation Committee. Mr. Mark Smith and Dr. Robert Bloom offered to sit on the committee with Chairman George. They hope to finalize this process by the end of January. Ms. Guffey will get a meeting scheduled. Ms. Lowder will assist the committee.
- D. **Executive Director Search Committee:** Chairman George met with the Executive Committee. Ms. Carie Johnstone, Mr. Neal Takiff and Director Smith will sit on the Executive Director Search Committee presided by Chairman George. Ms. Guffey will schedule the meeting and Ms. Lowder will assist the committee. The board would like to have someone hired by June 1, 2022.
- E. **CRSA Legislative Amendment Subcommittee Selection:** Chairman George announced that the Interagency Committee will develop procedures to incorporate the new CRSA amendment into practice.
- F. **2020 Annual Report:** Chairman George announced that the FY 20 Annual Report was provided to the Authority for 1st reading. A motion to approve will be suggested at the February meeting.
- G. **Dispute Resolution:** The Authority went into Executive Session to discuss a dispute resolution case.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **Executive Committee:** These items were covered throughout the board meeting.
- B. **Interagency Subcommittee:** The committee met again on December 2nd and discussed the Multiple Agency Resource Pool. A Survey was distributed to board members to elicit thoughts on reviving the MARP. All participants agreed we should have a MARP. We are asking for approval to proceed with the committee task of reinstating the MARP with new guidelines.

The IA Committee also reviewed the CRSA Senator Feigenholtz amendment that passed PA 102-0043. The committee concluded a need to develop a policy and procedure to incorporate this new CRSA responsibility. The committee's next meeting is January 13, 2022 at 9:00 if anyone else would like to join the committee please contact Director Smith.

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS

Illinois State Board of Education: Ms. Sherry Bochenek reported:

Time Out and Restraint:

Public Act 102-339 was signed by Gov. Pritzker and took effect on August 13, 2021. The main components:

- Additional ISBE oversight
- District-level plans to reduce RTO
- Codification of definitions and rules
- Parents ability to request post-incident debrief meeting

Public act requires ISBE to establish goals to reduce RTO over next 3 years – goals were developed in November 2021.

- RTO reduction goal
- Training goal – focus on de-escalation, restorative practices, trauma-informed practices, and implicit bias
- Resource Development goal – “Alternatives to Time Out and Restraint Recognition Program”

Further information on Public Act 102-339 and time-out and restraint can be found at ISBE.net in the Student Care Department found under “Topics”.

Residential Facility Placement Shortages:

- Executive leadership at ISBE is aware of the issues

- The Special Education Department is continuing the development of a data collection system to collect data on the number of students requiring residential services awaiting placement

Special Education Department reorganization

- Beginning in January 2022 – two Special Education Departments:
 - Department of Special Education Operational Support – focus will be on reporting, grants, legislative and statutory functions
 - Department of Special Education Programmatic Support – focus will be on LEA monitoring, instruction & assessment, Nonpublic programs
- Purpose is to provide optimal service through streamlined, dedicated systems of support

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

X. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Dr. Constance Williams moved and Dr. Seth Harkins seconded that the Authority meeting be adjourned at 11:52 am. The motion carried unanimously.*